

Sirs:

In April 2004, the Sinclair Group justified its censorship of a current news event, namely the ongoing casualties in Iraq, as follows:

"While the Sinclair Broadcast Group honors the memory of the brave members of the military who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our country, we do not believe such political statements should be disguised as news content. As a result, we have decided to preempt the broadcast of [ABC's] Nightline this Friday."

In light of this statement, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air as "news" an election-eve "documentary" on John Kerry's 30-year-old anti-war activities is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and is an abuse of the public airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, and why the license renewal process needs to be overhauled. I am deeply concerned about media consolidation which politicizes the news and increasingly manipulates the public with a corporate-generated view of reality, while at the same time force-feeding us with lewd, mindless "reality" shows and sensationalist nonsense.

Thank you.